

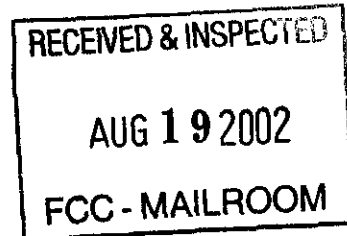


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WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

7 January 2001



Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce along with other economic development groups is engaged in a strategic planning process to identify actions that will sustain and strengthen the vitality of our community. Part of that process is focusing on the linkage between economic growth and telecommunications.

Over the past few years, Great Falls has attracted a few new call center businesses that now provide a significant number of jobs. Recruiting them showed us the link between appropriate telecommunications infrastructure and new job creation. However, the services they use are not as competitively priced, as we understand they might be.

One of the State's largest telecommunications service providers, Quest, is still unable to offer long distance services. This makes our state less competitive than those where the incumbent company has been allowed to compete for long distance and data services.

Quest is applying to the Commission for its approval to offer long distance services. On behalf of the business community in Great Falls, we want to encourage the Commission to review Quest's application favorably. Another competitor in the long distance / data business will be good for our business climate.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Rick Evans.

Rick Evans, President  
Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

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cc: Rick Hays - Quest